

## Message Text

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TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: JULY 13 PRESS ROUNDUP

PLEASE PASS TO AMB PAUL C. WARNKE

1. EXTENSIVE FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE WAS GIVEN TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S COMMENTS ON NEUTRON BOMB AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE AND IN HIS LETTER TO SENATOR JOHN C. STENNIS, CHAIRMAN OF SENATE ARMED SERVICE COMMITTEE. THRUST OF PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS WAS "IT IS MY PRESENT VIEW" THAT NEUTRON WEAPONS "ARE IN THIS NATION'S SECURITY INTEREST." CHARLES W. CORDDRY OF BALTIMORE SUN SAID WHILE PRESIDENT "LEFT OPEN SEEMINGLY SLIM CHANCE THAT HE COULD CHANGE HIS MIND, HE URGED APPROVAL OF PRODUCTION FUNDS IN SENATE, WHERE LIBERAL MEMBERS ARE TRYING TO KILL NEUTRON WEAPON." SENATE, CORDDRY NOTED, HAD PLANNED TO VOTE TUESDAY ON WHETHER TO APPROVE PRODUCTION MONEY FOR NEUTRON WEAPONS, BUT IN LATE AFTERNOON SENATE  
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LEADERS WON AGREEMENT TO PUT OFF ACTION UNTIL WEDNESDAY. THEY HOPE TO FORESTALL FILIBUSTER, WHICH SENATOR MARK HATFIELD HAS CALLED POSSIBILITY. CORDDRY SAID PRESIDENT IN HIS LETTER AND AT PRESS CONFERENCE "APPEARED TO MEET MAIN ARGUMENTS RAISED AGAINST NEUTRON WEAPON, IT IS NOT NEW KIND OF WEAPON, HE SAID. IT IS BATTLEFIELD TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPON AND THUS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH STRATEGIC ARMS

LIMITATION TALKS WITH SOVIET UNION. AS WITH ALL OTHER NUCLEAR ARMS, DECISION TO USE IT WOULD BE IN HANDS OF PRESIDENT, NOT MILITARY COMMANDER."

2. BALTIMORE SUN PUBLISHED ASSOCIATED PRESS DISPATCH FROM CASTEAU, BELGIUM, QUOTING NATO COMMANDER, GENERAL ALEXANDER M. HAIG, JR., AS SAYING LEADING ALLIES HAD GIVEN NEUTRON BOMB "ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT." HAIG, DISPATCH SAID, URGED ITS INCLUSION IN ALLIED ARSENAL IN EUROPE. HAIG SAID HE WAS ASTONISHED AT INTENSITY OF DEBATE ON NEUTRON BOMB, NOTING ITS DEVELOPMENT HAD BEEN IN PROGRESS SINCE EARLY 1960S. "WE HAVE VESTED INTEREST IN SEEING THIS SYSTEM PROVIDED TO ALLIANCE IN ORDER TO MODERNIZE OUR THEATER NUCLEAR CAPABILITY," HAIG TOLD NEWS CONFERENCE AT HIS HEADQUARTERS NEAR CASTEAU.

3. WASHINGTON POST IN EDITORIAL SAID "THOSE WHO OPPOSE PROCEEDING WITH WEAPON ARGUE THAT THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS CONTAINABLE NUCLEAR WEAPON; THAT SEDUCTIVE NOTION THAT THERE ARE NUCLEAR WEAPONS OF ANY KIND THAT COULD BE USED WITHOUT LEADING TO LARGER NUCLEAR EXCHANGE IS FOOLISH AND WRONG, AND THAT BATTLEFIELD ADVANTAGES OF NEUTRON BOMB IF WAR CAME WOULD NOT OUTWEIGH PERILOUS TEMPTATION TO USE IT WELL BEFORE OTHER TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS MIGHT BE EMPLOYED." POST SAID IT WAS OF THIS PERSUASION AND EXPRESSED HOPE "THAT MR. CARTER WILL YET COME TO IT WHEN HE GETS UNCLASSIFIED

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DOWN TO MAKING ACTUAL DECISION ABOUT PROCEEDING WITH NEUTRON BOMB."

4. ROBERT KEATLEY OF WALL STREET JOURNAL OBSERVED THAT NEUTRON WEAPON PROGRAM "HAS BEEN ATTACKED BY MOSCOW AS DETRIMENTAL TO ARMS-CONTROL TALKS -- THOUGH IT ISN'T STRATEGIC WEAPON AND THEREFORE ISN'T INCLUDED IN SALT NEGOTIATIONS -- AND BY MANY CONGRESSMEN AS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF CONTINUING ARMS RACE. SOME ALSO CONTEND NEUTRON BOMB PROGRAM MAKES USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS MORE LIKELY. THEY WANT PROGRAM KILLED.... MEANTIME, RESEARCH ON WEAPONS PROGRAM WILL CONTINUE IF MR. CARTER HAS HIS WAY.;

5. SYNDICATED COLUMNISTS ROWLAND EVANS AND ROBERT NOVAK, WRITING IN WASHINGTON POST, SAID "SECOND THOUGHTS ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S CANCELLATION OF B-ONE BOMBER ARE PRODUCING SERIOUS QUESTIONS ON STRATEGIC POLICY, CONFRONTING ADMINISTRATION WITH PROBLEMS FOR WHICH SOLUTIONS ARE NOT PRESENTLY IN SIGHT. NEW DEBATE OVER STRATEGIC POLICY SEEMS ENSURED, NOW THAT B-ONE SUPERSONIC BOMBER -- WHATEVER ITS IMMENSE COSTS TO TAXPAYER -- HAS BEEN SCRAPPED. PLANS FOR SUCH DEBATE ARE NOW BEING LAID BY DEFENSE-

ORIENTED MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WHO WANT TO KNOW, AMONG OTHER THINGS, WHETHER MR. CARTER HAS HIDDEN PLANS FOR SOME NEW AND CHEAPER MANNED BOMBER TO PENETRATE SOVIET AIR DEFENSES AFTER B-52 DIES OF OLD AGE IN NEXT TEN TO 12 YEARS.... CARTER'S DECISION TO CANCEL B-ONE, LEADING TO ALL-OUT U.S. DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION OF CRUISE MISSILE -- NOT AS ARMS TALK BARGAINING COUNTER BUT AS REPLACEMENT FOR LONG-RANGE BOMBER -- WILL PREDICTABLY LEAD TO CRASH CRUISE MISSILE PROGRAM IN SOVIET UNION. IF SUCCESSFUL, LEADING CONGRESSIONAL DEFENSE EXPERTS WARN, THIS SOVIET CAPABILITY WILL EITHER FORCE U.S. INTO IMMENSELY EXPENSIVE AIR DEFENSE PROGRAM OR HAND SOVIETS UNACCEPTABLE ADVANTAGE.... EFFECT OF B-ONE DECISION ON SALT HARDLY BEGINS WITH QUESTION OF LIFTING THAT 2,500-KILOMETER RANGE CEILING FOR

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CRUISE MISSILE. MORE IMPORTANT IS QUESTION OF VERIFYING RANGE, NUMBERS AND PAYLOADS OF SOVIET CRUISE MISSILE." EVANS AND NOVAK SAID "UNDERLYING THESE RISING CONCERNS IS FACT THAT CARTER CANCELED B-ONE WITH NO APPARENT OFFSET OF ANY KIND FROM MOSCOW, PARADOX DEEPLY TROUBLING TO HIS CRITICS."

6. U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT IN JULY 18 ISSUE QUOTED LESLIE GELB AS SAYING THAT WHILE THERE WILL BE NEW SALT AGREEMENT, THERE ARE SEVERAL ROADBLOCKS ON WAY: (1) "TWO SIDES LOOK AT NUCLEAR ARMS FROM DIFFERENT VIEWPOINTS, WHICH MAKES COMPROMISES DIFFICULT," (2) U.S. "MUST PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO NEEDS AND INTERESTS OF ITS ALLIES.... KREMLIN, HOWEVER, HAS NO EQUIVALENT INHIBITIONS. ALL DECISIONS ARE MADE ON ITS OWN," AND (3) U.S. NEGOTIATORS "OPERATE UNDER MAGNIFYING GLASS," WITH AMERICANS INCLINED TO ASK "WHAT IS PRESIDENT GIVING AWAY?" OR "WHO IS AHEAD?" THIS HAMPERS AMERICAN FLEXIBILITY IN TALKS. SAID GELB: THERE IS FAR MORE AT STAKE IN NEGOTIATIONS THAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS. SALT GOES TO HEART OF RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. IT INVOLVES CONFLICTS IN AFRICA, PROPOSED LIMITATIONS ON FORCES IN EUROPE, NONPROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. SALT IS BAROMETER FOR WHOLE RANGE OF SUBJECTS INVOLVING TWO NATIONS. VANCE

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